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PROCEEDINGS  
of  
THE TRAVANCORE REPRESENTATIVE BODY.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

FIRST MEETING.

*Saturday, the 20th March 1948/7th Meenam 1123.*

The first meeting of the Travancore Representative Body was held in the Legislative Chamber, Trivandrum, on Saturday, the 20th March 1948 at eleven of the clock, with M. R. Ry. *Rajyaseva-pradina* P. G. Narayanan Unnithan Avergal, Officiating Dewan, in the Chair.

The proceedings commenced with the singing of the Indian National Anthem and the *Kerala Ganam*.

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it a great privilege to welcome you on this historic occasion and to inform you that I have been graciously commanded by His Highness the Maharaja to deliver to you His Highness' message.

I shall now read the message of His Highness the Maharaja.

*(The following message which was then read, was received by the members, all standing.)*

**Message from His Highness the Maharaja.**

It is with very great pleasure that I extend my cordial greetings to the members of the Representative Body on this occasion of their first meeting.

Travancore, as is well known, was the first Indian State to have a Legislative Council which was brought into existence in the year 1888. The strength and the powers of the Council were progressively developed in succeeding years. My decision made last April to constitute the legislature on the basis of adult franchise and my resolve announced in September last to establish responsible Government are the natural

sequel of the policy consistently pursued by my house of associating the people in increasing measure with the administration of the State. Travancore is the first place in India, to introduce adult franchise and this body which consists of members elected on this basis has been summoned to submit proposals for modifying the present constitution of the State with a view to implementing my decision to establish responsible Government. I am confident that the deliberations of the Body will result in the framing of a scheme which will promote the well-being and contentment of all my people.

I now wish this Representative Body God-speed in their great task.

#### OTHER MESSAGES.

**CHAIRMAN:** I shall read two other messages I have received. One is from Lt. Col. Godavarma Raja.

"I wish the new Representative Body all success. May Providence guide the deliberations of this epoch-making Body."

The next is a telegram from Trichur, received from Mr. Puthazhathu Raman Menon, President, Cochin People's Congress, addressed to the President, Constituent Assembly, Trivandrum.

"Humble felicitations, hearty congratulations and sincere good-wishes on this happy, auspicious and historic occasion. May Almighty shower choicest blessings on the Assembly enabling them to frame a constitution satisfactory to all and conducive to the progress and prosperity of the State as a whole."

Another message received is from Rev. Bishop Chulaparambil.

"Pray Almighty shower blessing on Constituent Assembly and guide future well-being of our State."

#### TAKING OF OATH BY MEMBERS AND SIGNING OF REGISTER.

**CHAIRMAN:** I now call upon the Secretary to read the names of the members for swearing.